Service Date- December 2,1996

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

S.B. Finance Docket No. 31363 (Sub-No. 2)

UNION RAILROAD COMPANY AND BESSEMER AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD COMPANY--PETITION

Decided: December 9, 1996

On November 20, 1996, Union Railroad Company (URR) and Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Company (B&LE) jointly petitioned for a declaratory order in connection with the decision served December 23, 1988, in <u>Blackstone Capital Partners L.P.</u>, <u>Blackstone Transportation Partners L.P.</u>, and USX Corporation-Exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10746, 11321, and 11343, Finance Docket No. 31363. Reply statements are due December 10, 1996.

By letter filed on December 6, 1996, the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) requests a 3-day extension to December 13, 1996, to file a reply. USWA states that the additional time is necessary because of the press of several other cases. According to USWA, counsel for URR and B&LE has been informed and consents. The request is reasonable and will be granted

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

- 1.USWA'S extension request is granted.
- 2. USWA's reply statement is due December 13, 1996.
- 3. This decision is effective on the date of service. By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon **A.** Williams Secretary